

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

With a further preferred embodiment the method is carried out as a competitive assay. In doing so, the analyte to be detected competes with a structurally similar compound which normally carries a label, for a limited number of bonding positions. Since the added and ~~labelled~~ labeled substance competing with the analyte is administered in constant quantities, the number of bonding positions occupies by the ~~analyte~~ structurally similar labeled substance depends on the number of bonding positions taken up by the analyte in the analyte concentration. This means that the more analyte that is present in the sample, the fewer the bonding positions which are occupied by the ~~labelled~~ labeled competitive substance. This in turn means, that with increasing analyte concentration, the quantity of unbonded, ~~labelled~~ labeled competitor in the liquid phase increases. This results in the measurement signal from the liquid phase increasing with an increase in the volume of analyte in the sample. Competitive assays are long since known to the person skilled in the art from the prior art.